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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer Of Health**

for the year

1958





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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

William Hall, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.,  
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

Ronald F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

G.S. Banks, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

L.D. Cowell, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

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Causes of Deaths in 1958.



LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for  
the year ending 31st December, 1958.

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LUDLOW.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year 1958.

The Birth-rate, standardised for the district was 16.38, a figure closely comparable with that for the Country as a whole which was 16.4. but rather less than the corresponding figure for the County of Salop which was 16.61.

The Death-rate, also standardised for the district was 11.4 and very slightly below the national figure of 11.7 but rather higher than the rate for the County which was 10.81.

Fewer cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year. Notifications totalled 133 against 357 in 1957, the reduction being principally in Measles and Whooping Cough; but a small outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred in the South of the County and six cases were notified in the District, five of which could be attributed to the outbreak, but the sixth appeared to be co-incidental. Appropriate steps were immediately taken by the Health Department of the Authority within whose jurisdiction the outbreak originated, and satisfactory control established. The patients made a satisfactory recovery.

The grouped dwellings for old persons at Craven Arms commenced in May 1957, were completed and became ready for occupation during the months of July and August. Although costly, this type of accommodation provides for a definite need. In grouped dwellings, with a little help from the Warden, many old people will be able to live out their lives in the community who otherwise would have had to apply for admission to Part III accommodation provided by the County Council under the National Assistance Act.

If more grouped dwellings are built it will lead to a reduced demand for the more expensive 'old peoples homes' provided under the National Assistance Act, and therefore to the probability of an overall economy. In an ageing community such as ours grouped dwellings may prove to be the best way of meeting the accommodation needs of those who have become too old to work, and the District may be very proud of their first venture in this field.

My thanks are due to Mr. Saunders and the staff of the Health Department for their willing help at all times, and for providing most of Section C of this Report, and to Mr. Shaw for providing information on the position of the Water Supply Schemes at 31st December, given at the beginning of Section C.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HALL.

Medical Officer of Health.



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## GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS.

1958

# VITAL STATISTICS FOR COUNTY OF SALOP.

## STATISTICS FOR LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	94	94	188
Illegitimate	3	4	7
Totals	<u>97</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>195</u>

	M.	F.	Total
Still Births - Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year of age	-	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) All infants per 1,000 total livebirths		2	10.26
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births		-	-
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births		2	285.71

Death rate per 1,000 of the population =	Crude	12.13
	Standardised	11.40



### Population.

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the Rural District at the 30th June, 1958 was 13,690. This was 50 less than the estimated figure for the previous year.

### Births.

Live births numbered 195 (Legitimate - 188, Illegitimate - 7) giving a 'Crude' birthrate of 14.24. Applying the comparability factor of 1.15 the corrected birth-rate becomes 16.38.

### Still Births.

There were two still births and this gives a still birth rate of 10.15 against the rate for the Country as a whole which is 21.6. The figures upon which the still birth-rate is calculated are so small that the rate has little significance.

### Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

Two deaths were reported of children under the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 10.26. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the country is 22.5. Again the figures are too small for the rate to be significant.

### Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered was 166 (male 84, female 82). This gives a 'Crude' Death-rate of 12.13 when the comparability factor of 0.94 is applied the comparable death rate becomes 11.40. Figures showing the chief causes of deaths will be found at the end of the Report.

### Natural Increases of Population.

The total number of Births exceed the total number of Deaths by 29.



## SECTION B.

### Personal Health Services.

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

#### Care of Mothers and Young Children.

##### (a) Child Welfare Centres.

Child Welfare Centres are provided in Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer, and are held as follows:-

Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow : Every Monday

Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer : 1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
in each month

Attendances at these Welfare Centres during 1958 were as follows:-

Welfare Centre	Made first attendance when under 1 year	Total Cases	Total Attendance
Ludlow	109	192	1205
Cleobury Mortimer	33	145	631

An ante-natal clinic is also held at the Ludlow Child Welfare Centre every Monday, being conducted by one of the County Council's Assistant Medical Officers. The Ludlow District Nurse-Midwives hold their own ante-natal clinic at the Centre on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month.

It is impossible to give any indication in the table above of how many of the children attending the Ludlow Centre are children from the Rural District, and one must assume that the majority are from the Borough.

##### (b) Birth Control Clinics.

The County Council hold a Birth Control Clinic in the Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow from 2 to 4 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday in February, April, June, September and November.

##### (c) Care of Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

A Moral Welfare Worker employed by the Hereford Diocesan Association to whom an annual grant of £400 is paid by the County Council, is based in Ludlow and works throughout the Rural District. The Worker concerned is Miss G. Leslie, of 144, Corve Street, Ludlow. (Tel. No. Ludlow 257).

The County Council also gives substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

The County Council also has contractual arrangements with Herefordshire for the admission of cases to the Hereford Mother and Baby Home.





(d) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

People living in Ludlow Rural District normally obtain National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Codliver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) at the County Councils Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Mornings. For those people living some distance from Ludlow arrangements exist whereby National Welfare Foods are distributed by Voluntary Workers from distribution points in the following districts:- Clee Hill, Clee St. Margaret, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, and Munslow.

Midwifery.

The County Council employ a total of eleven midwives in the Ludlow Rural District and two of this number also operate in the Borough. Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as midwifery duties.

The following table gives details of the midwifery work carried out by these midwives during 1958:-

Nursing District	Total Confinements	Total Domiciliary Visits	Attendances on Discharged Institutional Cases	
			Cases	Visits
Burford	10	289	9	29
Church Stretton	18	537	31	171
Clee Hill	12	335	13	25
Cleobury Mortimer	22	715	31	92
Craven Arms	17	546	7	26
Ludlow	33	1016	54	129
Munslow	8	209	12	56
Stoke St. Milborough	8	228	7	31

The Nursing Districts, comprising groups of parishes, do not conform to the Rural District Boundary and the figures given above therefore in some cases (Church Stretton and Ludlow) will include many cases from outside the Ludlow Rural District.

Health Visiting.

Two full-time Health Visitors are employed by the County Council in the Ludlow Rural District and one of these (Miss G.L. Ward) who is based in Ludlow also undertakes health visiting in the Borough.

Home Nursing.

As stated above the midwives employed by the County Council in the Rural District undertake the home nursing duties.

Only in the Borough of Ludlow itself does the County Council employ a Home Nurse solely to undertake these duties.

Cases attended and visits made during 1958 were as follows:-





Nursing District	Home Nursing Cases	Visits
Burford	40	752
Church Stretton	303	5147
Clee Hill	47	891
Cleobury Mortimer	104	1922
Craven Arms	149	2828
Ludlow	168	3731
Munslow	60	465
Stoke St. Milborough	48	542

### Vaccination and Immunisation.

Protection is offered, in particular to pre-school children, school children and in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and to thirteen-year old children against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

The tables below give the numbers of children from the Rural District who have availed themselves of the facilities offered.

### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

		County Council Medical Officers	General Practitioners	Totals
Diphtheria Primary Boosters		4	101	105
		1	26	27
Whooping Cough Primary		10	111	121
Smallpox Primary	Performed	9	140	149
	Successful	8	135	143
Tetanus Primary		-	17	17

As it is not possible to give particulars of Poliomyelitis Vaccinations performed in the Rural District, the following are particulars of such injections performed in the County as a whole during the year:-

County Council Medical Officers	-	49, 442.
General Practitioners	-	11, 147.



B. C. G. V A C C I N A T I O N 1 9 5 8.

School	Consent Forms Given Out	Refusals	Number of Consents Presented	Number of Children Skin- Tested	Skin Test Readings		Number Vaccin- ated	Re-Mantoux	
					Pos.	Neg.		Pos.	Neg.
BROMDON FARM	8	1	7	7	2	5	5	-	-
MILLICHOPE	20	9	11	11	2	9	9	-	-
MUNSLOW	3	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	-
ONIBURY	10	-	10	9	1	8	8	-	-
STOKESAY	30	2	28	26	6	17	17	2	-
CLEOBURY MORTIMER MOD.	143	7	136	123	26	93	93	14	-





### Ambulance Service.

The Central Ambulance Station is in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331.)

There is a local Ambulance Depot in Ludlow and five ambulances are based here.

Drivers are on call and can be called out at any time during the day or night.

One dual purpose vehicle is kept at a garage in Craven Arms for local convenience.

During 1958 these six vehicles made 3,035 journeys carrying 8,076 patients a total distance of 136,542 miles.

Arrangements for calling out ambulances are normally made through doctors and hospitals but in emergency calls from anyone are put through to the Central Ambulance Station and appropriate arrangements made.

### Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

(a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups, for loan to patients being nursed at home.

(b) The treatment of Tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities. The County Council for their share provide open-air Shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Miniature Mass Radiography Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may in necessitous cases be provided.

(c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.

(d) Through their Mental Health Officers and Health Visitors the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

### Domestic Help.

The County Council provides a fairly comprehensive Domestic Help Service through branch offices.

The greater part of this area is served from the Ludlow Home Help Office which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. A small section in the north, however, is served from the Church Stretton Home Help Office which opens on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

During the year ended 31st December 1958 the services of the County Council's Home Helps were made available in 29 homes. In 14 cases the help was provided for the benefit of aged and chronic sick persons, in 3 cases help was needed on account of temporary illness, in a further 7 homes domiciliary confinements had occurred, in two houses there was a tuberculous patient and three post operative cases were helped.





### Hospital Service.

In addition to the Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, the Hospital and Specialist Services provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board must be briefly mentioned.

The District is served principally by the hospitals under the No. 15 Hospital Management Committee centred at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury. The Ludlow and District Hospital and East Hamlet Hospital serve local needs and Specialist Clinics or Out-patient Sessions are held at these hospitals as follows:-

Clinic or Out-Patient Session.	East Hamlet Hospital	Ludlow & District Hospital	Consultant
Orthopaedic	2nd & 4th Mondays 1-30.p.m. - 3.30. p.m.		
Obstetric & Gynaecological	-	Wednesdays 2.p.m.	Mr.S. Burke
Surgical	-	Wednesday fortnightly 9.a.m.	Mr.J.A.Baty
Medical	-	Mondays 2.30p.m., Wednesday fortnightly 10.a.m.	Dr. A.W.J. Houghton. Dr. W.D. Wallace.
E.N.T.	-	Monday fortnightly 1.30.p.m.	Mr.E.N.Owen
Paediatric	-	Third Tuesday in month 2.0.p.m.	Dr. J.C. Macaulay.
Psychiatric	-	Thursdays 2.0.p.m.	Dr. M.J. Brookes.
Radio Therapy	-	1st Saturday in month 10.30a.m.	Dr. E.J. Richardson

A Chest Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month at 11.0a.m. at the Child Welfare Centre, Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow. Although this clinic is provided by the Regional Hospital Board it is for convenience held at the County Councils Centre.

Cases from the District are admitted to the Royal Salop Infirmary, The Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, and Copthorne Hospital, whilst a small number of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care under a paediatrician are admitted to Monkmoor Children's Hospital.

Tuberculosis cases requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Shirlett Hospital.

### Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.



Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Chester.

Good Laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. A.C. Jones of the Shrewsbury Laboratory and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advice when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.



## SECTION C.

### Environmental Health Services.

#### WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

The following was the position in connection with the Council's Water Supply Schemes at 31st December 1958.

##### South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Scheme.

This scheme is designed to supply the whole of the Rural District lying to the south of the Elan Aqueduct of the Birmingham Water Department.

The work involved has been divided into three contracts.

Contract I. dealt with the re-conditioning and lining of an existing main in the parish of Ludford. This work was completed during 1958.

Contract II. deals with the provision of a Reservoir at Whitcliffe and distribution mains throughout the parishes of Ashford Carbonell, Ashford Bowdler and Richards Castle, Salop. By the end of 1958 tenders for this portion of the scheme had been invited so that an early start on the work can be anticipated.

Contract III. relates to the remainder of the area and comprises some 25 miles of mains and two reservoirs. The scheme has been prepared in detail, and tenders are to be invited early in the year 1959.

##### Western Area Water Supply Scheme.

This is the largest of the Council's proposed schemes, and in July 1958 it received the approval of the Ministry without modification.

All the necessary abstraction orders were confirmed by the Minister to take effect from 1st February, 1959.

The compulsory purchase order for the acquisition of protective land at Seifton Pool was confirmed at the same time, and negotiations were in hand to transfer the Culmington Manor Estate undertaking to the Council's ownership by the end of the year. Emergency works were planned on the Estate System to improve the quality of the water, the poor pressures experienced in various sections of the scheme and generally to improve the service to consumers pending the coming into operation of the main scheme.

Work on part of the first stage was commenced in the village of Munslow in September 1958. Good progress was made up to the end of the year in spite of the presence of large volumes of rock which was met in the excavating for the pipe lines.

##### Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme.

Although this scheme is not so far forward as the schemes referred to earlier, a great deal of preparatory work has been carried out in the office, and it is hoped that a Public Enquiry will be held in to the proposals in the near future.





## 2. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### (a) Water Supplies.

#### Purity of Supplies.

The Undermentioned samples were taken for bacteriological examination from public supplies in the area:-

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Total number of samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Birmingham Aqueduct	7	7	0
Bitterley	5	4	1
Burford	5	4	1
Clee Hill	6	6	0
Clee St. Margaret (Council Houses)	6	4	2
Clee St. Margaret Well	4	4	0
Cleobury Mortimer	9	7	2
Coreley	6	6	0
Craven Arms	6	4	2
Culmington	5	4	1
Diddlebury	8	5	3
Hope Bowdler	5	3	2
Longville-in-the-Dale	5	5	0
Middleton	5	5	0
Munslow	5	5	0
Onibury	5	3	2
St. Milburga's Well	5	3	2
Ticklerton	5	5	0
Wall-under-Heywood	5	5	0
Totals.....	107	89	18

In addition, the following samples were taken from a prospective public supply.

<u>Source</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Cornbrook	26	18	8

These results show that in the main, the Public Supplies are of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.

There was little change regarding the number of properties served by a proper water supply piped into the house.

However, during the year a Public Enquiry was held regarding the proposed South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Scheme. Permission from the Minister of Housing and Local Government was received to go ahead with both this scheme and the Western Area Supply Scheme.

Preparatory work has already been started on the Western Area Scheme by the Engineers Department. It is hoped that main laying will commence during the coming year and that these two schemes will lead to a greatly improved position in the near future.

Water is a basic necessity of life and a pure piped supply inside the dwelling is a basic requirement for a fit house. Consequently, the provision of public piped supplies is a very important and worthwhile matter which will materially affect the living standards and also the health and happiness of a great number of persons throughout the area.

Further, a pure water supply of ample quality is an essential for all premises governed by the Food Hygiene Regulations.





A public supply will enable progress to be made under the Regulations at a number of premises.

Of the public supplies, the Birmingham Aqueduct supply which has caused concern in the past, has proved to be bacteriologically satisfactory throughout the year.

At Diddlebury pollution was found when samples were taken from one particular house. This was found to be due to the house being connected to the end of the supply pipe or main. A washout valve was fitted and this has resulted in the quality of the supply being brought up to standard again. Unsatisfactory results at the Clee St. Margaret Council house supply were due to a similar cause.

The other unsatisfactory reports showed only mild pollution with the exception of one from Cleobury Mortimer. Pollution there was due to a breakdown of the chlorinating plant. This provides a reminder of the unceasing efforts that are needed to maintain a public supply of satisfactory purity and of the potential danger of making use of a basically impure water.

An unsatisfactory report was received on a sample of water taken from the Burford Public Supply. Tenbury Rural District Council, the Water Undertakers, were notified.

On investigation, they discovered that a water connection had been tampered with. Following rectification of the fault the supply was found to be satisfactory again.

Complaints were received from the tenants of four houses in the Southern part of the District where the only supply was from a well alleging that the owner of the houses was denying them a supply of water by fixing a lock and chain to the handle of the pump. After discussion and informal action the matter was reported to the Public Health Committee.

Statutory notices were served on the owner, following which the supply was restored.

Later, the same owner removed the pump from the well, but the pump was replaced by the affected tenants. Fortunately, this owner who was so lacking in a sense of responsibility has now sold the cottages.

Eighty two samples for bacteriological examination were taken from private supplies. Of these, 68 were unsatisfactory and only 14 satisfactory.

Advice was given when samples were found to be unsatisfactory but it has to be accepted that in some cases without installing expensive chlorinating equipment a satisfactory bacteriological standard will never be obtained.

#### (b) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

##### Ashford Carbonell.

The laying of sewers and construction of the sewage works was completed during the year. Unfortunately, however, although most of the properties have been connected to the new sewers, full benefit will not be obtained from the new system until a public water supply is provided. It is now hoped that this supply will come during 1959 as a first part of the South Eastern Parishes Water Scheme.

Several years ago the Council accepted the principle of payment of grant under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 as an encouragement to owners to convert pail closets etc. to water closets in cases where public sewers have been provided. Early in 1958, the Council agreed in the case of conversions at Ashford Carbonell to pay a lump sum grant of £25 for every such conversion.





Whilst only a few conversions have been carried out so far, this decision will prove to be of great benefit later when a piped water supply becomes available.

#### Clee Hill.

Work on laying sewers and providing a new disposal works is making satisfactory progress and is expected to be completed in 1959.

Payment of grant, as at Ashford Carbonell, has been approved by the Council. This, no doubt, will result in improved conditions at many properties in the not too distant future.

#### Wistanstow.

The unsatisfactory conditions in this village are much the same as in 1957. The existing drainage systems have received some maintenance treatment during the year and are at present meeting the limited demand placed on them.

These systems are however quite inadequate for modern requirements. This will be found to be more the case than ever when a public water supply is provided.

It is hoped therefore that it may prove possible to provide a new sewerage system in the not too distant future, for that is what is needed badly.

#### Cleobury Mortimer.

The position here is that a few pail closets and privies remain to be converted. Four of these are at houses which the owner had planned to alter under the Improvement Grant Scheme. Owing to one tenant resolutely refusing to agree to the scheme, the owner was unable to proceed and is now proposing a modified improvement scheme.

The few other closets are at houses which have been listed for demolition or closure and at houses which the Council are endeavouring to take over.

#### Neen Sollars.

As a result of complaints presented to the Public Health Committee a drainage survey in the village of Neen Sollars was carried out during the year. It was found that little public nuisance was being caused. In the few cases needing attention satisfactory proposals were subsequently put forward and some of the necessary works have been carried out.

#### Private Drainage.

Statutory notices were served on an owner in the Southern part of the district where a drain serving four houses was found to be obstructed and defective. This procedure following much unsuccessful informal action.

Other obstructed and defective drains have been dealt with by informal action.

#### (c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Collection arrangements made a few years ago have been continued. That is to say four collections are made every five weeks at Cleobury Mortimer, and Craven Arms, two collections every five weeks at Burford and Clee Hill and one collection every five weeks elsewhere.

Although these arrangements have worked fairly satisfactorily the service as a whole cannot be regarded as satisfactory.



Improvement under present circumstances, could only be brought about by the purchase of a second vehicle and the employment of a team of men to operate it. Refuse collection is an essential public health service and it is hoped that in the near future the Council will find it possible to give the improved service that a more frequent collection would mean.

Disposal is made by tipping. Most of the refuse is disposed of at four tips. Regular treatments are carried out for vermin, attention being paid to the surroundings. The new tip at Cleobury Mortimer has not yet been brought into use, but at the end of the year a contract for the preparatory work had been awarded to a contractor and it is expected that it will be possible to start tipping early in 1959. This will enable use of the present unsatisfactory tip to be discontinued.

(d) Rodent Control.

The rat destruction service has been maintained and at the end of the year 61 contracts to the value of £479.0.0. were held.

A large area of the district was surveyed. Although little evidence of rat infestation was found early in the year other than that at the premises under contract, later in the year a number of heavy infestations were discovered or were reported.

It is considered that, generally, there has been a fairly big increase in the number of rats on farms during the past few months as a result of the wastage of grain in the fields caused by the bad weather conditions which ruined the harvest for many farmers.

Under the arrangements made some years ago, the operative, Mr. F. Mear, spends one week every two months at Church Stretton by arrangement with the Urban District Council.

(e) Factories and Workshops.

There are a total of 85 factories and workshops on the register. Of these, 17 are factories without mechanical power. Five visits were paid during the year. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in two cases and written notices served.

(f) Inspection by the Public Health Inspectors.

The following is a summary of visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	829
Meat Inspection	590
House Allocation	372
Water Supplies	307
Food Premises	228
Refuse Collection & Disposal	171
Drainage	149
Moveable Dwellings	69
Infectious Diseases	11
Air Pollution	10
Factories & Workshops	5
Knackers Yards	4
Miscellaneous	175
Total...	<u>2920</u>

Mr. Banks was engaged on full time meat inspection duties.

Eight formal and 103 informal notices were served during the year including 27 under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.







### 3. Housing.

#### General Statement.

1.	Number of Inhabited Houses.	4290
2.	umber of Council Houses	452
3.	Number of Houses completed in 1958	
	(a) Council Houses (inc. Old	
	People's Dwellings).	24
	(b) Private Houses	15
4.	Number of additional houses provided	
	by the conversion of older houses	0
5.	Number of Improvement Grants applied	
	for	39
6.	Number of Improvement Grants granted	39
7.	Number of applications for Council	
	Houses at 31st December, 1958.	235
8.	Number of Houses closed or demolished	24
9.	Number of unfit or defective houses	
	rendered fit by informal action	
	under the Public Health or Housing	
	Acts	16

#### (a) House Allocation.

The Public Health Inspector's Department continued work in connection with house allocation. Three hundred and seventy two visits were made to interview applicants and to investigate housing conditions.

Twenty three old peoples dwellings at Craven Arms were allocated, but even with a similar number now proposed for construction at Cleobury Mortimer, the demand for dwellings for old people will still not be met. Of the 235 applications on the list at the end of December, 52 were for Old Peoples' Dwellings: i.e. over 22 per cent.

This number will no doubt have increased by the time the dwellings at Cleobury Mortimer are ready for allocation. Experience at Craven Arms and elsewhere has shown that many people do not apply until the dwellings are partly constructed.

The figure of 235 applications does not really give a true picture of the housing need. Some of the applicants cannot be considered to have true housing need but on the other hand, many persons who are living under extremely poor conditions have not made application.

It is anticipated that when the housing survey of the district, at present in progress, is completed it will be found that a fair programme of building will be necessary to rehouse families and old persons living in unfit houses.

#### (b) Housing Conditions.

During the year work on housing survey has progressed steadily.

A total of 240 houses were visited for the purpose of survey and examination in the following parishes - Acton Scott, Ashford, Bowdler, Bromfield, Burford, Culmington, Diddlebury, East Hamlet, Greete, Halford, Hope Bagot, Little Stretton, Ludford, Onibury, Sibdon Carwood, Stokesay, Whitton and Wistanstow.

Several houses were found to be unfit and unoccupied. In these cases action was taken immediately under the Housing Acts to secure demolition or closure. Many of the dwellings were in positions with poor access and a complete lack of main services.



With such conditions it is little wonder that owners find difficulty in obtaining tenants.

There is no doubt that there is a changing concept on the part of country people as to what constitutes satisfactory, or acceptable, housing conditions. Undoubtedly, unless houses generally are repaired and improved many more will go out of use simply because people will not live in them. This applies particularly to the more remotely situated premises.

During the year many visits were paid to houses at Cleobury Mortimer to ascertain the progress being made with repairs following informal action consequent on the housing survey in that parish. Informal action has continued, but although worthwhile progress has been made, much work still remains to be done.

Only three applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been received during the year.

In one of these cases the work was completed with the minimum of delay.

It is quite apparent however, that as a measure to secure the repair of houses and to bring them up to an acceptable standard by means of agreement between landlord and tenant, the Rent Act, 1957 has failed dismally so far as this district is concerned. From information given in the technical and national press it seems that this is so throughout the country as a whole.

(c) Action under the Housing Acts.

During the year the following action was taken regarding unfit houses.

The following is a summary:-

Number of houses closed under the terms of Closing Orders	10
Number of houses closed under the terms of undertakings by owners	13
Number of houses demolished	1
Number of houses made fit and undertakings cancelled	0
Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action	16

(d) Improvement Grant Scheme.

This scheme is operated by the Engineer's Department, but advice is given from time to time by the Public Health Department mainly in respect of houses being dealt with under the disrepair clauses of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

The new Act under which grants of up to £150 will be available for limited improvements as of right, will certainly lead to more improvements being undertaken. However, without any powers of compulsion it is very doubtful if many of the persons in need of help such as the tenants of poorer class properties, will benefit.

(e) Moveable Dwellings.

Eight caravan sites were licensed.

An application was received during the year to use land as a site for moveable dwellings, at Earls Ditton Lane, Doddington. Work has been proceeding steadily at this site to put in a drainage system, water supply, water closets etc.





Action is being taken to prevent, so far as is possible, pollution of a water supply serving a farm in the vicinity. This water supply runs open for about half of its length, partly in a roadside ditch and it is more than likely that the water is polluted to an extent to make it bacteriologically unsatisfactory as it is at present. This latter state of affairs is, unfortunately, typical of existing water supply conditions around the Clee Hills.

In March the Council adopted standards applicable in varying forms to both individual dwellings and sites. These standards are similar to those adopted by other Rural Authorities and deal with such matters as water supply, sanitation and the numbers of dwellings to be used on a site.

#### 4. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

##### (a) Meat Inspection.

There are still the same number (3) of slaughterhouses in the district, but in 1958 there was another substantial increase in slaughtering, chiefly at the Abattoir of the Shropshire Fatstock Society Ltd., at Craven Arms.

As the detailed figures below show, there has been an overall increase in the number of animals slaughtered and carcasses inspected from 52,606 in 1957 to 68,109 in 1958. However, owing to the higher proportionate increase in the numbers of cattle and pigs slaughtered, the increase in terms of "cattle units" has been over thirty eight per cent. (A "cattle unit" is one of the bases by which slaughtering and meat inspection is judged).

Much slaughtering and inspection has been carried out in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays. Sunday slaughtering which was carried out on 48 days, has become a regular feature of business at the Craven Arms Abattoir. A full normal days slaughtering is usually carried out, because although work usually finishes at about 1.0. o'clock, it commences in the very early hours of the morning.

During the year Mr. Banks has continued to carry out full time meat inspection duties at the Craven Arms Abattoir. Particularly, during the latter part of the year his duties have been very onerous. The weekend work has been shared by the three Inspectors on a rota basis.

An interesting feature of developments at Craven Arms was that during the first half of the year a full days slaughtering of cows was needed to fulfil an order for beef for Italy. Apparently the meat required was of the poorer, leaner type only, such as is obtainable from cows.

This meant that, as a result of the Italian import restrictions, under which only carcasses from completely disease free animals are accepted, and as a result of the higher incidence of disease in cows, as many as 35 cows were having to be slaughtered to obtain 20 carcasses fit for export.

As a result of the Fatstock Society having difficulty in selling the carcasses which had been rejected for export, but which were passed in whole, or in part, for human consumption in this country, trading eventually ceased.





At the Craven Arms Abattoir the Council's Byelaws relating to the care and management of Slaughterhouses have not been complied with so far as the storage and disposal of guts and inedible offals is concerned, despite the matter being taken up repeatedly with the Society. It is hoped that the Society will meet their obligations and make satisfactory arrangements in the very near future.

In December, 1958, new Slaughterhouse Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations were passed. Most of the provisions came into force on 1st January, 1959, but it is too early yet to state what the full effect of these will be.

The figures for meat condemned show an increase of nearly 20 tons over 1957. This increase is not in direct proportion to the increase in the number of animals killed, being greater. The main reasons for this were,

1. The slaughtering of more cows, particularly in connection with the Tuberculosis eradication scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
2. The wet summer causing an increase in the number of livers affected with Distomatosis (liver fluke) and other parasitical conditions.
3. The increase in cases of Cysticercus Bovis - the parasitical condition which causes tapeworm in man.
4. A small outbreak of swine fever which resulted in a number of carcasses being condemned.

The increase in the incidence of cysticercus bovis has been steady over the past few years. This tends to make one think that unless these carcasses are traced back to their source of origin, and the source eliminated wherever possible, this disease may in years to come replace tuberculosis in importance so far as cattle are concerned. Any such scheme on the lines indicated should of course be carried out on a national basis.



Animals Slaughtered and Carcasses Inspected in  
1958.

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Number Killed.	7375	1427	928	31,736	26,643	68,109
Number inspected.	7375	1427	928	31,736	26,643	68,109

All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercus bovis.

Whole carcasses condemned.	13	16	26	280	77	
Organs or parts condemned.	1891	623	14	1365	2158	
Percentage affected.	20.82%	44.78%	4.31%	5.18%	8.39%	

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned.	12	48	2	-	4	
Organs or parts condemned.	187	167	1	-	597	
Percentage affected.	2.70%	15.07%	0.32%	-	2.25%	

Cysticercus Bovis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	
Organs or parts condemned.	19	1	-	-	-	
Percentage affected.	0.26%	0.07%	-	-	-	

Weight of meat condemned:

1. On account of Tuberculosis. 35,687 lbs.
2. On account of Cysticercus Bovis. 1,291 lbs.
3. On account of other diseases. 72,071 lbs.

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109,049 lbs.

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= 48 tons, 13 cwts, 73 lbs.

Total number of animals killed = 68,109. :





(b) Inspection of Poultry and Turkeys.

Last year I reported on the tremendous growth of the business at The Grove, Craven Arms where a local firm is concerned in the rearing, slaughtering, dressing and marketing of vast numbers of birds.

During 1958, there has been a still further growth. The firm has erected a number of specially constructed houses for the rearing of "broilers" ("broiler" being the trade name given to an intensively fed and rapidly fattened chicken which is slaughtered at the age of 10 to 11 weeks). It is claimed that the flesh of such a bird is succulent and tender.

In addition, the firm has made large extensions to the depot, involving the installation of new refrigeration rooms and a new line slaughtering system. At the end of the year the new works were almost completed.

Around 25,000 birds are now handled every week, the firm claiming that they are dealing with about one and a half million a year.

With the improvised arrangements which have been in force at this depot for some time, the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations have not been fully met, particularly so far as the hanging of poultry in inadequately protected positions is concerned. In addition, several workers have had to be warned for smoking at their work.

Another matter which is unsatisfactory and which was reported to the Public Health Committee during the year, is water supply. The water supply to The Grove comes from the old estate supply and is stream water from Upper Dinchope; it is highly polluted.

Endeavours were made during the year to secure the chlorination of this water and another possibility of improvement is that the owners of the depot will sink a bore. Further, the Council may be in a position to supply mains water fairly soon under the first stage of the Western Area Water Scheme.

General inspections of the premises and conditions generally are made from time to time, but with the vast numbers of birds being dealt with there is no possibility of routine inspection of the poultry being carried out.

There is another and very much smaller depot in use at Ashford, where turkeys for the Christmas trade are dealt with.

(c) Food Hygiene.

(1) Food Hygiene Regulations.

During the year a further 18 food premises received initial visits under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. None were found to be completely satisfactory and written notices were served in all cases.

Two hundred and twenty eight visits have been made to food premises during the year. Of these, 88 were for the purpose of ascertaining the progress being made to comply with notices. These visits revealed that a further 29 premises complied in all respects, 14 complied with the exception of minor items, and some work had been done at a further 14. In 3 cases the work was in progress at the time of visiting and orders had been placed regarding 4 premises. In 8 cases new contraventions were found and one public house was found to be using rooms not previously used as food rooms.

No work had been done at 21 premises. The majority of these were schools under the control of the Salop Education Committee. The whole question of schools was reported to the Public Health Committee towards the end of the year, when the Committee took the view that the Education Committee were doing all they could in the matter having regard to the fact that their financial expenditure is severely controlled by national policy, including grant from central funds. It must be said however, that the position is unsatisfactory





whereby a Government controlled body receives, in effect, preferential treatment as compared with private individuals and firms.

A summary is given below of the main works carried out at those premises where it was found that work had been partly or completely done.

Wash hand basins fitted, including provision of constant hot and cold water, trapped waste pipe, soap, towels and nailbrush.	26
Structural alterations or repairs.	23
Internal decoration to part or the whole of the premises.	22
First Aid materials supplied.	20
Minor items including flyproofing, provision of towels Etc.	15
Sinks fitted and supplied with constant water supply and trapped waste.	10
Hot water supplied to existing fittings.	10
Alterations to existing drainage system or new drainage provided.	6
Cupboards for storage of clothes not used during working hours.	4

It will be noted that the provision of wash-hand basins has now risen to the top of the list. The Inspectors have found in their discussions with shopkeepers, managers etc. that, in the main, the importance not only of hand washing, but also of hand washing being carried out separately from the washing of crockery and utensils is now being more readily appreciated.

Towards the end of the year, following considerable informal pressure and under the threat of prosecution, some works were carried out at two premises, a butchers shop and a cafe. Works were still in progress at the end of the year and it is now hoped that these matters will be cleared up satisfactorily.

## (2) Food Poisoning.

In July, six cases of salmonella food poisoning were notified from various areas within a few miles of Ludlow. Five of these had an apparent common source of infection, namely certain pressed meat prepared at and purchased from a butcher's shop in the Borough of Ludlow.

A number of similar cases were notified in the Borough of Ludlow at the same time.

It is understood that in practically all of these cases the persons affected were violently ill. Investigations at the butchers shop were carried out by the Borough Health Officers.

The other case proved how little knowledge some people have as to how long and under what conditions pressed or tinned meat should be stored after opening. The meat in this case was kept for about a week under extremely poor conditions favouring the multiplication of any bacteria which might have been present.

In October, a six months old child was sent to Hospital from the Corvedale. Salmonella typhi-murium was isolated as the causative organism. Many samples were taken and sent for analysis, but the Bacteriologist's suggestion that the disease was carried by flies seems the most likely as the organism was not found in any of the samples examined.

## (d) Supervision of Milk Supply.

The supervision of milk production at farms is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and in general the Council is responsible only for milk retailers other than producer retailers. Conditions at the few retail premises were found to be satisfactory during the year.



Particulars of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are as follows:-

To use the designation "Sterilized"	2
To use the designation "Pasteurised"	2
To use the designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
To use the designation "Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised"	5

(e) Ice-Cream.

Three more premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream during the year, bringing the total to 38. All sell prepacked ice-cream made by reputable manufacturers.

There is one manufacturer at Craven Arms and he now also sells ice-cream produced elsewhere. All premises are kept in a satisfactory condition and all the premises, of course, have refrigerators in which the ice-cream is kept under ideal conditions until the time of sale.

(5) General.

(a) Knackers Yards.

There are still two knackers yards in the district - at Sparchford and Lower Stanway. Both of these have been rebuilt of recent years; consequently, they are in good structural condition.

They have been found to be maintained in satisfactory condition generally throughout the year when regular inspections have been made.

(b) National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

In the early part of the year an elderly lady living alone in the South Western part of the district was visited and found to be living under extremely poor conditions and to be in need of care and attention.

Following visits by her own doctor and the Medical Officer of Health, action under the above Section was taken, the old lady being removed forcibly to East Hamlet Hospital - a thankless, but nevertheless very necessary task. Confirmation of the action taken was given by the Council, but subsequent action under the Act was rendered unnecessary as a result of the lady being certified under the Lunacies Acts.

(c) Air Pollution.

Complaints were received of an alleged nuisance caused by the emission of smoke from a factory chimney in the Southern part of the District.

On investigation it was found that three people - none trained in proper methods of stoking - were stoking the boiler at the factory. The Company stated that a new boiler was to be fitted.

Later it was found that the installation of this new boiler had started and that as a result of advice given by this Department a higher chimney would be fitted. Further advice was also given regarding the stoking of the boiler and regarding suitable fuels. No further complaint has been received. The complaints made and the increased number of visits paid regarding atmospheric pollution seem to indicate a growing awareness and an increasing interest in smokeless air on the part of the general public, even in this rural area, since the introduction of the Clean Air Act.





SECTION D.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1958:-

Scarlet Fever	- 2	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	- 5
Measles	- 77	Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	- 1
Whooping Cough	- 31		
Acute Pneumonia	- 11		
Food Poisoning	- 6		

The total number of notifications received was 133 compared with a total of 357 during 1957.

Diphtheria.

There have been no cases of this condition in the District during the last fifteen years.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were reported.

Tuberculosis.

Five cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and one case of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there were two deaths (both Respiratory), one of whom had not been notified as suffering from this disease until after death.

Particulars of the 71 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1958 are as follows:-

	<u>Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>
Male	28	8
Female	<u>23</u>	<u>12</u>
Total.....	<u>51</u>	<u>20</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	35	38	73
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	11	21
Malignant Diseases	13	15	28
Bronchitis	7	2	9
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	3	1	4
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Other causes	7	8	15
Total	84	82	166

Deaths from Cancer (all forms):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population
Ludlow Rural District	- 28	2.045
County of Salop	- 513	1.716



Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i). Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	17	2	-	-
(ii). Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	68	3	2	-
(iii). Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total.....	85	5	2	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
Total...	2	1	-	-	-







